

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of meeting no. 87-3

of the

Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council

held

Friday, 01 May, 1987

Present: Professors M.N.S. Swamy (Chairman), O. Ahmad, V.S. Alagar, A.E. Blach, T.D. Bui, M. Douglass, A.K. El Hakeem, T. Fancott, P.P. Fazio, D. Feldman, F.D. Hamblin, J.F. Hayes, H.F. Li, Y.J. Lu, R.V. Patel, H.B. Poorooshab, T. Radhakrishnan, O. Schwelb, T. Stathopoulos, C.Y. Suen, G.D. Xistris; B. Smart, Associate Registrar; G. Desharnais, Student Representative; P.M. Bourassa, (Secretary)

Absent with apology: B. Ashtakala; H.K. Ha; Z. Jirkovsky.

Visitors: Dr. Martin Cohen; D. Dobrofsky; N. Dupuis; S. Boudrias.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 87-3-1 Council unanimously adopted a motion to approve the published agenda. It was agreed that the following additional items would be discussed under "Other Business":

- a) Guidelines for the Planning Process
- b) Reaction of the Steering Committee to the Co-operative Format proposal
- c) Student Referendum

2. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 87-2

Motion 87-3-2 Council unanimously adopted a motion to approve the minutes of Meeting 87-2.

3. Chairman's Remarks

Dr. Swamy said that Convocation will be held on June 12. On this occasion, the new Chancellor will be installed. There will be addresses by the Chancellor and the Rector. On the previous evening, there will be a banquet at the Four Seasons Hotel to mark the 100th Ph.D. degree granted by this Faculty. We are inviting

the Honorary Doctorate and also those who received honorary degrees from this Faculty in previous years. Dr. Fancott has already communicated with all our Ph.D. graduates. He will also contact faculty members in the near future. He is preparing a booklet with pictures and short biographies of all Ph.D. graduates from this Faculty. He will need the help of chairmen to write a short history of each Department, particularly as concerns the Ph.D. programmes.

4. Proposed Library Acquisition Formula

Dr. Martin Cohen was invited to address Council on this subject. He said that the Library has now used the same formula for 14 years and that the time has come to consider alternatives. What is being proposed is a model rather than a formula and it recognizes the fact that there need not be a direct relationship between the number of students and library use. Therefore, budget allocations should be more use-driven this year and take into consideration things that cannot be quantified.

In explaining the methods of allocation outlined in Document ECFC 87-3-3, Dr. Cohen said that, with a budget of less than two million dollars, it is not possible to renew all subscriptions to serials. With the increase in cost, this would almost wipe out the money available for books. Therefore, it was decided that the maximum protection to be given to serial funds would be 80%.

When Dr. Cohen said that usage will be recorded when re-shelving, some Council members said that they usually re-shelve current periodicals themselves in order to make them immediately available to other readers. Dr. Cohen answered that the maximum re-shelving time is 3 hours and that the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science is recorded as the biggest user per capita notwithstanding the fact that some instances of usage have not been recorded. This is an entrenched trend and students of this Faculty are steady users of library facilities. Therefore, an allocation of funds based on usage would be to the advantage of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

A student representative said that the student association would be willing to contribute \$1,000 for new serials. Dr. Cohen answered that if this is to be a one-shot deal, there would be no point since the new subscriptions could not be renewed. However, if this is to be recurrent, it would be most welcome.

The following motions were adopted unanimously:

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| Motion
87-3-3 | This Council recommends to Senate that the Proposed Model for the allocation of library funds be adopted. |
| Motion
87-3-4 | This Council recommends to the Library Administration that better methods of recording periodicals usage be investigated. |

5. Proposed Undergraduate Curriculum Changes

Motion
87-3-5

Council approved for recommendation to Senate the undergraduate curriculum changes proposed in Document ECFC 87-3-1.

Council then considered the curriculum changes which are not recommended by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and are recorded in Document ECFC 87-3-2.

Gilles Desharnais spoke in support of the proposed new course ENCS 491 - Organizational Internship. He said that the present Engineering and Computer Science Student Association is more career oriented than CUSA. He mentioned the students' role in the Quebec Engineering Competition hosted by Concordia University from February 27 to March 1, 1987. The success of this competition improved the image of the University. The students who organized this event obtained more than \$50,000 in private funding and looked after all organizational details. Yet, they obtained no reward other than personal satisfaction.

Several faculty members acknowledged the significant contribution made by students in organizing activities such as the Quebec Engineering Competition but could not support this particular proposal. Dr. Hayes said that he is sympathetic to students but he has an old-fashioned view of what should be in a course. He added that he does not think that this would be a move in the right direction. Dr. Fazio said that the students showed excellent leadership in organizing this Competition. Dr. Swamy agreed that those students did a tremendous job but he added that this does not mean that they should be given academic credits in recognition for this work. In particular, these should not be granted in lieu of social aspects courses: if we did that, we might be in danger of losing accreditation.

A Council member suggested that a student's realizations in this field appear on his transcript but that no academic credit be given. Finally, there was a consensus around the proposition that a request be made to the Undergraduate Studies Committee to find some appropriate way of recognizing the achievements of students who undertake a project which is beneficial to the Faculty as a whole.

Council also considered Doc. ECFC 87-3-7 recommending the re-enstatement of INDU 330, Organizational Management, which was dropped starting in the 1987-88 session.

Motion
87-3-8

Council unanimously adopted a motion to re-instate INDU 330 as an elective in Option D of the Mechanical Engineering programme, starting in the 1988-89 session.

6. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

A proposal for a slot course on Computational Hydraulics had been

tabled at the previous meeting. Now that the undergraduate equivalent was approved (CIVI 489, on page 2.1 of Doc. ECFC 87-3-1), the proposal was re-submitted, but some questions were raised about the number of credits. Since the lectures for this course are 2 hours per week, the course should normally carry 2 credits; however, graduate courses are normally 3-credit courses. The introduction of a 2-credit course would create difficulties for a student in meeting the requirements in credits and number of courses. There followed a discussion on laboratory work, but it was finally decided to table the proposal again so that the question of numbers of credits can be looked into.

7. Establishment of Research Centres

A proposal was submitted by the Computer Science Department and another one by the Electrical Engineering Department. They are described in Documents ECFC 87-3-5 and 87-3-6.

In support of these proposals, Dr. Bui said they would help co-ordinate research work. Government policy favours the establishment of centers of excellence which group researchers in an area of investigation. Therefore, it is important, in order to obtain support from government funding that these centres be established. Our present application for an "Actions structurantes" grant has to go through CRIM. If we had a center in the proper field, this would provide a second route for this application.

Dr. Hayes said that a research centre should not be concentrated in one department: each one should be broadened to Faculty participation. Dr. Bui agreed and said that the Centre proposed by the Computer Science Department already includes members from outside of that department.

Dr. Fazio said that the conditions for the establishment and development of Centres should be:

- a) a clear set of objectives;
- b) a set of criteria against which to compare proposals for new Centres;
- c) mechanisms to ensure normal growth and to modify their structures as required by such growth. This may include a sunset condition to avoid proliferation of moribund centres.

Dr. Xistris expressed his concerns on the question of resource requirements. Dr. Hayes said that the purpose of the present propositions is just to get the centres established in 1987.

There is no resource implication for now. Dr. Stathopoulos said that the centres can apply for grants only once they are officially recognized. Dr. Swamy said that we must avoid the accusations of having put these centres together at the last minute just to go after specific grants. They might also provide a vehicle to get funding from industry, especially from the governmental dollar-matching programmes.

Dr. Fazio said that the centres cannot apply if they are not approved by the Board of Governors. He then asked whether we are really committed. The internal machinery must be geared up to respond. Dr. Xistris insisted that the Minutes must reflect the statements to the effect that there would be no resource requirement.

Dr. Bui proposed that the proposals be combined into a single resolution which would read as follows:

Motion
87-3-9

The Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council recommends to the Board of Governors that the following centres be established within this Faculty:

- a) the Concordia Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence Research Centre (CONPARMI)
- b) the Concordia Signal Processing and Communications Research Centre (CONSIPCOM).

Dr. Xistris proposed an amendment which would add the following sentence to the above motion.

Motion
87-3-10

The Faculty will not devote resources to these centres in the next academic year.

There was a short discussion during which Dr. Suen said that there is no point in tying our own hands.

Motion 87-3-10 was defeated by a vote of 3 in favour, 9 opposed and 5 abstentions.

Council then voted on Motion 87-3-9 which was adopted by a vote of 13 in favour, none against and 5 abstentions.

8. Other Business

a) Guidelines for the Planning Process

Copies of a draft document prepared by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee were sent to all Council members. This draft would be discussed at Department meetings. The chairmen are to report to the Dean at the Executive Committee.

b) Reaction of the Steering Committee to the Co-operative Format proposal

Dr. Douglass, who sits on the Steering Committee was asked to inform Council of the Committee's reaction to the Faculty's proposal for offering some programmes in the co-operative format and of the developments in submitting this proposal to Senate.

The Committee, said Dr. Douglass, is not against the proposal, but it is not prepared to put it on the agenda of the forthcoming Senate meeting. The reasons which came up during the discussions are that the documentation submitted did not contain sufficient information about academic objectives, opportunities and rationale. Some questions were raised also about how eager the Faculty is to get this format started, whether the Departments were willing to allocate funds towards the cost of offering the co-operative format, and whether the Faculty would be interested in offering a complete co-operative programme.

Dr. Swamy said that questions of this nature should have been asked by the Academic Programmes Committee. Alternatively, he could have answered them at Senate. Dr. Bui observed that the Steering Committee appears to be doing the work of the Academic Programmes Committee.

Prof. Hamblin said that there will be another meeting of Senate on May 29. Mr. Dobrofsky said that time would be required for the preparation of promotional material and that approval should not be delayed much longer.

c) Student Referendum

Gilles Desharnais reported that a referendum was held among Engineering and Computer Science students and that a proposal, to the effect that full-time students each contribute \$50.00 per year (\$25.00 in the case of part-time students) towards the improvement of laboratory equipment, was approved.

Dr. Swamy congratulated the student body for this enlightened initiative.

9. Motion to Adjourn

Motion
87-3-11.

Council unanimously adopted a motion to adjourn.